**Post:**

"While many students recognize the need to shelter teenagers from inappropriate material and adult-oriented commercial ads, they complain that blocking and filtering software often raise barriers to students' legitimate educational use of the Internet. Most of our students feel that filtering software blocks important information, and many feel discouraged from using the Internet by the difficulties they face in accessing educational material." (Pew, 2002)  
  
Since E-Rate funding requires web content filtering, this will continue to be an issue for educators. I will use YouTube as an example. YouTube hosts videos that are entertaining and educational. Some videos have great educational value, while some have no redeeming value whatsoever. Unfortunately, you can't get one without the other. Many schools block YouTube, while some allow restricted use. The schools that block YouTube totally, are missing out on a great educational tool. Finding the proper balance in content filtering is definitely a challenge. I agree, we should block porn sites, but maybe we should concentrate more on instilling responsibility and accountability. This is somewhat like the analogy...if you tell a kid he can't do something, he is going to find a way to do it anyway.   
  
*Levin & Arafeh (2002). The Digital Disconnect. Pew Internet and American Life, iv. Retrieved April 9, 2011, from www.pewinternet.org*

**Responses:**

Jack I agree with your post for the week. We should try to monitor what we use within the classroom. However, I think that YouTube has some good videos for students to watch. The teacher is the main factor needed to monitor the students.

Jack this quote stood out to me too. I have witnessed the frustration of my students and heard the comments that we shouldn't even have internet access since we can't access what we really need. I sometimes tend to agree with them. Although the filters are there for a purpose I believe that they tend to block sites that teachers could use in order to reinforce a topic.

I agree. Even more perplexing are filters that allow access one day, then block it the next! I still haven't figured out how that happens. The filters uesd my district have improved greatly over the last few years, but useful sites are still frequently blocked. Unfortunately, I sometimes think the filters are needed more for the teachers than for the students.

I completely agree. Our school blocks you tube and google images and it makes it harder find resources like those to use in the classroom. Even with so much stuff blocked at our school, students still find ways of getting to inappropriate material. There are some websites that teachers have access to but students do not. I don't know why they can't just unblock those sites for teachers only.